



**JUSTICE CABINET
DEPARTMENT OF
JUVENILE JUSTICE
POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

REFERENCES:
505 KAR 1:120
3-JTS-4C-22, 24, 41
3-JDF-4C-21, 23
3-JCRF-4C-09
1-JDTP-3B-02
1-JBC-4C-22, 24
NCCHC Y-E-05
KRS Chapter 319

CHAPTER: Health and Safety Services	AUTHORITY: KRS 15A.065
SUBJECT: Mental Health Assessment/Evaluation	KRS Chapter 311
POLICY NUMBER: DJJ 405.1	
TOTAL PAGES: 3	
EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/4/2014	
APPROVAL: A. Hasan Davis	, COMMISSIONER

I. POLICY

Adequate and appropriate mental health screening and evaluation shall be provided to youth.

II. APPLICABILITY

This policy shall be applicable to group homes and youth development centers and shall govern the actions of detention centers in complying with applicable sections of DJJPP Chapter 7 (Intake, Reception, and Orientation and Suicide Prevention and Intervention).

LIMITED APPLICABILITY

In day treatment programs, mental health needs shall be assessed on the day of admission in accordance with protocol approved by the Chief of Mental Health Services. On suspicion of a problem, referral may be made to the Mental Health Branch or the parent or guardian may be contacted and assisted, if appropriate, in finding the proper community resources.

III. DEFINITIONS

Refer to Chapter 400.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Mental health screening, to include screening for drug and alcohol abuse, shall be completed at the time of admission in accordance with procedures approved by the Chief of Mental Health Services.

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1. In youth development centers the screening shall be completed by the facility Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP) or trained designee. After the initial screening is completed, the facility QMHP shall review and sign both the medical and mental health screening forms.
 2. In group homes and detention centers, staff trained in use of the screening instrument shall complete mental health screening. The screening form shall be reviewed and signed by a counselor.
- B. Based on this screening it shall be determined if the youth may join the general population, be referred for immediate evaluation by a mental health professional or be referred for immediate medical evaluation.
 - C. Upon identification of an acute psychiatric condition, appropriate personnel shall be informed. The facility psychologist and the Registered Nurse or designee shall be notified of all suicidal threats or attempts. In group homes and detention centers, the Regional Psychologist shall be notified of all suicide attempts and be consulted as needed on threats. Residents with acute conditions shall be maintained on one to one supervision until directed otherwise by the QMHP or until the resident is hospitalized. If the QMHP recommends that a youth is in need of further mental health treatment or review, the Superintendent or designee shall promptly transport the youth to obtain such treatment. If hospital admission is indicated, the facility psychologist, or in group homes the Superintendent or designee, shall coordinate admissions to psychiatric facilities.
 - D. The Registered Nurse and Regional Psychologist or designee shall maintain a list of other major sub-specialty medical and mental health providers that can be accessed as needed to manage youth with acute and chronic medical and mental illnesses.
 - E. Youth in youth development centers, who require mental health services, shall have an evaluation within 14 days of admission and annually thereafter.
 - F. Mental health issues of youth in youth development centers and group homes shall be addressed in the treatment planning process described in DJJPP Chapter 3 (Individualized Treatment Aftercare Planning). Each youth's Individual Treatment Plan shall reflect the capabilities of the youth to work within the scope of the treatment/work/school program.

V. MONITORING MECHANISM

Monitoring shall be accomplished by the Registered Nurse, Regional and facility-based psychologists, the Quality Assurance Branch, and the Chief of Mental Health Services or Designee.